



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
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(860)441-6630

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Bruce S. Flax, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

3. Calendar and Communications

Councilor Kolnaski reported on information she received from Ledge Light Health District regarding actions that are being taken in light of the swine flu outbreak.

Councilor Sheets reported on developments regarding stimulus funding for energy conservation programs. The Town has been deemed ineligible to receive funds from the Department of Energy because it does not meet the population threshold of 35,000 or more due to the fact that the City's population is being deducted from the Town's population. However, \$147,500 is available to the Town (under the lower population figure) through the State Office of Policy and Management. The legal department of the Senate Democrats is attempting to set up a conference call with the Department of Energy and Councilor Sheets has spoken to Mayor Popp about the situation. Councilor Sheets suggested that the Council must make a decision to accept the \$147,500 in funding or avoid the precedent regarding how the Town's population is being calculated. The OPM application for funding from the Department of Energy must be approved by the General Assembly and the deadline for submission is May 25th.

Councilor Kolnaski wished Councilor Brown-Tracy a happy birthday.

4. Approval of Minutes

2009-0112 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting of April 14, 2009 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adopt.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Flax, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter
Abstain: 1 - Councilor Kolnaski

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

2009-0102 Resolution Approving Budgets for FYE 2010**Discussed**

Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo asked the Council to approve the budgets and tentative mill rates. Mr. Pandolfo noted the reconciliation from Manager's to Council's general fund and capital budgets. He then reviewed percent increases/decreases for various areas of the budget, which result in an overall increase of 0.5%. The Council will set the final mill rate after RTM action on the budget.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0103 Computation of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 2010)**Recommended for a Resolution**

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

Councilor Sheets noted that after deliberation on the Groton Long Point Police Department account, The Town Council received an analysis from Chief Kelly Fogg of what it would cost the Town to police Groton Long Point and the City of Groton. Councilor Sheets noted that it is not appropriate to act now, but she wants the Council to look hard and long at terminating the subsidy to the Groton Long Point Police Department and having the Town take over policing services there..

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0104 Computation of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove (FYE 2010)**Recommended for a Resolution**

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

Councilor Sheets noted that she lives in Mumford Cove and she does not feel it is a conflict.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0105 Computation of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District (FYE 2010)

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0092 Creation of a Town Garden**Recommended for Deletion**

Town Manager Oefinger noted that a community garden is being created at the rear of the Community Services building, and as such, he would recommend deleting this referral. Councilor Sheets provided more information on the garden. The referral was deleted by consensus.

2009-0013 Joint Meeting with Stonington Board of Selectmen (2009 Standing Referral)**Discussed**

The next joint meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall Annex.

2009-0110 2010 Census**Discussed**

Town Manager Oefinger explained that the Census Bureau is preparing for the 2010 Census that begins on April 1, 2010. Staff has met with census officials and specifically discussed the undercounting that occurred in the 2000 Census. The Town Manager recommends forming a "Complete Count Committee" comprised of local officials to discuss the special populations within the community to make sure that they are aware of, and participate fully in, the census.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0294

Home Connecticut Program

Recommended for Deletion

Town Manager Oefinger explained that the State of Connecticut will not be providing incentive funding for this program because of the current budget situation. He noted that the referral can be made again if funding is available in the future. The referral was deleted by consensus.

2009-0116

TVCCA Lease Agreement for 40 Central Avenue

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger explained that the Norwich YMCA is closing its daycare facility on Central Avenue, which has operated since 1990. The proposal is for TVCCA to take over the operation, which requires a new lease. The proposed lease is similar to the existing lease. The Town Attorney has advised that this should be treated as a new lease, subject to a public hearing and referral to the Planning Commission under CGS 8-24. The lease will also require RTM approval. The Town Manager recommended allowing TVCCA to take over the lease in the interim.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that scheduling a May 19, 2009 public hearing on the TVCCA lease of 40 Central Avenue be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that a referral to the Planning Commission under CGS 8-24 of the TVCCA lease of 40 Central Avenue be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Manager distributed a memorandum from Director of Public Works Gary Schneider regarding Spring Free Disposal Days and recommending that Sunday operating hours end after the free disposal is over (as opposed to July 1st). Discussion followed on the specifics of the free disposal days. The Council had no objections to suspending Sunday operating hours beginning in mid-June.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.